

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

February 25, 2002

As the Dept. embarks on a 10-year, \$400 million capital plan, it is imperative that an off leash dog policy is adopted and in place as park design and renovation discussions begin. The intent of this policy is to set up a group or groups of citywide criteria that pertain to the diversity of parks and open spaces that define San Francisco. The Recreation and Park Department is the steward of wide ranging unique landscapes and has the responsibility to make wise decisions on

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The following document is a reflection of the findings and a revision of the policy. Please note at the changes are noted in red.

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The Department recognizes the strength and character of the communities that have developed while recreating with a dog. It is the intention of the Department to increase opportunities for these unique communities to develop. We recognize the positive influences these communities bring to neighborhood parks. While the policy, on the face of it, appears to be restrictive, its purpose is to create more places for legitimate off leash use in our parks. Just blanket enforcement of the current law would definitely undermine that use. Inadvertently, off leash use has created conflict with the rich breadth of uses our parks are host to. The Department is committed to facilitating solutions that allow these uses to coexist peacefully.

Since releasing the draft dog policy on June 12, 2001 the Department has reviewed and considered over 2,700 responses to that document. Nearly 300 staff hours were spent reading, evaluating and incorporating suggestions from the public. While many said they disagree with the policy we found several areas of common ground. Most citizens, whether dog owners or not, like the idea of having designated off leash zones. Most citizens would also like the clean up laws enforced and a majority would like the leash laws enforced. However, that said, it is clear that there was a tremendous amount of confusion surrounding the draft dog policy. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines and rules so that civilized compromises can be reached in each community for balancing many conflicting land uses.

The following document is a reflection of the findings and a revision of the policy. Please note that the changes are noted in red.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In preparation for the draft dog policy, we have performed extensive research and compilations of policies and data of dog parks throughout the country and world. The following draft policy reflects the *Recreation & Park Dept. (RPD)* Strategic Plan, *input from community stakeholder groups*, SF Municipal Codes, the 1998 Dog Task Force¹ recommendations, as well as the best and most relevant efforts of established dog park designs and policies.

The San Francisco Recreation & Park Department (RPD) welcomes dogs on leash in most of its parks; dogs are currently allowed off-leash in 19 designated areas. ~~The Dog Task Force has recommended establishing an additional 18 sites. (Appendix see reference material for existing sites and task force sites) Existing & proposed sites will need to be evaluated in the context of this policy.~~ Dogs are not allowed in some areas as noted in 3.1 of this policy. ~~This policy does support on-going use of parks by dogs and their guardians.~~

The following policy supports continued and increased education about how to be a responsible park user with your pet. RPD believes the off-leash dog issue is not entirely about dogs but a debate about appropriate uses for, and stewardship of scarce urban parkland and open space, which are stretched to accommodate all the uses San Franciscans propose for them. This policy outlines rules and guidelines to allow all citizens to share urban parks and open spaces without endangering one another or adversely affecting these spaces. The intention of ~~the rules this policy~~ is to assure San Francisco citizens and park visitors a quality and safe experience in our parks. ~~which belong to all of us, and to future generations.~~

2.0 DEFINITIONS

To provide consistency in this document, the following terms will apply throughout:

RPD: San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

DPA: Dog Play Area~~as~~ defined by RPD, a designated park space for off-leash dog use

Owner: shall mean any person who possesses, has title to or an interest in, harbors or has control, custody or possession of an animal, and the verb forms of "to own" shall include all those shades of meaning. (SF Health Code, section 41.g)

¹ Pursuant to the Board of Supervisors Resolution # 359-98, the Advisory Dogs-Off Leash Task force was formed. Establishment of a Task Force to assess use of parks by San Franciscans with their dogs off leash, to investigate and to recommend solutions for improving conditions in City parks, and to look for ways to provide sufficient off leash opportunities for San Francisco dog owners. Neither ~~the~~ Board of Supervisors nor the Rec/Park Commission ~~did not~~ formally adopted the report and its recommendations.

Partner(s): Dog Play Areas require a ~~A~~*n active volunteer or partner program group to assist with monitoring and maintenance of DPA. Partners must demonstrate their commitment, organizational skills and willingness to support and promote the DPA standards.*

Dog Advisory Committee: As defined in section 4.3 of this policy, an advisory committee will be formed to help RPD create, monitor, and mediate the community process surrounding DPA's.

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

Athletic Fields: Any field for which the RPD accepts paid, permit reservations (see appendix reference materials)

Children's Play Area: Any area that is immediate proximity to children's play structure or apparatus and sandbox

Significant Natural Resource Area: The Significant Natural Resources Management Plan (SNRAMP), adopted by the Recreation and Park Commission in 1995, lists over 30 open spaces throughout the city as Significant Natural Resource Areas (SNRAs). Significant Natural Resource Areas are generally remnants of San Francisco's original landscape and support important plant and animal populations and habitats. RPD's Natural Areas program is currently conducting a scientific study in order to more clearly designate and define these areas.

While the list in the SNRAMP provides a good framework for identifying SNRAs, it is general and is not necessarily reflective of on the ground resources. ~~For example, not all land within a designated SNRA is an important natural resource area (e.g., lawns or areas where the landforms and vegetation have been highly altered). Similarly, some parks or portions of parks not listed in the SNRAMP contain habitat for sensitive species (e.g., portions of Lincoln Park and Golden Gate Park).~~ Therefore, each park and open space must be evaluated on a case by case basis in order to determine the boundaries of the SNRA and Sensitive Habitat Areas.

Some criteria that should be considered when determining the boundaries of Significant Natural Resource Areas are provided below.

- Areas of existing intact native plant communities (remnants of the original landscape)
- All habitat areas that support, or are likely to support, locally important, rare, threatened or endangered species (examples include red-tailed hawk nesting sites, heron rookeries, cormorant nesting colonies, red-legged frog habitat, western pond turtle habitat, wetlands, significant migratory bird habitat, quail habitat areas)
- Active restoration sites

~~• Areas that have the potential to be restored. These areas typically would contain unaltered or un-manipulated soils or substrate and would not have been heavily landscaped in the past. Typically these areas would be located adjacent to intact natural areas.~~

- Areas that function as wildlife corridors or would link, or make contiguous, two or more nearby natural area fragments.
- Buffer areas around intact native plant communities and important wildlife habitat areas.

3.0 DPA SITE CRITERIA ~~FOR OFF-LEASH USE~~

RPD will use the following criteria as defined below to appropriately evaluate existing and potential new DPAs.

3.1 LOCATION

The density of the dog population varies from community to community. ~~The requirements of one community may not be the same as a neighboring community.~~ The size and nature of each DPA will be determined by several factors including, but not limited to, available park land, proximity to significant natural areas, dog population *proximity to other DPAs* and other *existing* park uses. It is RPD's desire to provide DPA opportunities in all neighborhoods. However, not unlike pools, or athletic fields, some neighborhoods do not have adequate park space to meet this goal. Therefore, RPD will work closely with the Dog Advisory ~~Committee Group~~ and community partners to identify suitable spaces for additional DPAs.

DPAs should be neighborhood friendly and, at a minimum, will be located where they will not adversely impact the surrounding neighborhood and open space by:

- Causing ongoing conflicts due to overcrowding
- Causing detriment to the surrounding environment such as digging *or trampling*
- Causing displacement of established recreational activities including passive recreation²
- Compromising the intent of the DPA to allow dogs and owners to exercise and socialize in a safe area.

Siting shall also take into account the following:

- DPAs shall be sufficiently distant from residences so that noise and activity levels are no more disruptive to neighbors than typical park uses. Some noise is expected and will not be used as a reason to disallow the establishment of a DPA
- Ability to place DPA on well drained area of any given park *or financial resources to install appropriate infrastructure*
- DPAs shall comply with all codes and regulations as they apply to the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California *Building Code* Title 24.

While dogs are allowed in most park areas, dogs are not allowed in the following areas:

- Athletic fields
- *Tennis Basketball Volleyball Courts*
- Children's Play Areas
- Sensitive Habitat Areas (*feeding/nesting grounds for significant animal species*)
- Significant Natural *Resource* Areas (as defined in *appendix reference materials*)

² The Department does alter *land* uses based on community and capital demands. This does not preclude options to use guideline considerations.

- Areas prohibited in Park Code Sec.5.02³

3.2 SIZE

The size of a DPA will reflect the amount of available land, dog populations, park size and other considerations (see Section 3.6 DPA Opportunities). Wherever possible, DPAs should be at least 30,000 square feet (equal to approximately 4-4 tennis courts). The minimum size of a DPA shall be 8,000-10,000 square feet, approximately 800-2,800 square feet larger than a standard tennis court (60" X 120"). RPD modified National Parks and Recreation Association standards for DPAs of a minimum of 10,000 sq. feet, due to the constraints of available open space within the jurisdiction of RPD and the relative landmass of the City and County of San Francisco.

3.3 CAPACITY

~~RPD will post each DPA with a recommended occupancy. The occupancy is the recommended maximum number of dogs that can effectively and safely use a given DPA at any one time. Users are expected to self regulate to the posted recommended occupancy.~~

~~The capacity of a DPA shall be 400 square feet per 1 (one) dog. Thus, a minimum-sized DPA of 8,000 square feet shall have a recommended occupancy of 20 dogs inside the DPA at any one time.~~

3.3 BOUNDARIES/BARRIERS

DPAs require adequate delineation, natural or man-made, to protect dogs from vehicles, steep cliffs, and other hazards as well as to prevent conflicts with other park users.

Some fencing will be required to separate adjacent land uses. Where fencing is required it will be 4 feet high. However, to the extent possible RPD will advocate for non-fence alternatives. The boundaries of DPAs will be identified with ~~barriers~~ physical enclosures. ~~(shrubs, fencing)~~. All barriers will strive to be aesthetically pleasing using landscape features such as shrubs and vines. Type of barrier, size and location will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Barriers shall be evaluated based upon the following criteria: adjacent site use; size of DPA; active park uses, proximity to SNRA, ~~density~~ and historic use ~~patterns, information. The standard to be tested against is a dog's ability to permeate the barrier.~~

³ Sec.5.02. Animals prohibited from certain areas. No person, other than members of the Police Mounted Detail when on duty, shall, in any park, allow any animal in his or her custody to enter any building, the Zoological Gardens, or those areas of Golden Gate Park known as the Arboretum, Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory valley, or any playground, sandbox or other area reserved for children, or to enter or drink the water of any drinking fountain, lake or pond, except at places designated and maintained for such purpose. Notwithstanding the above provision, a blind person may enter buildings, the Arboretum, Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory Valley with a guide dog (i.e. service dog).

3.4 DPA SURFACING

RPD's experience and research of DPA's shows that grass will not grow in heavily used DPAs leading to muddy conditions and other environmental degradation. In an effort to provide the highest standards possible in DPAs, RPD will only consider the use of turf in unusual circumstances. In accordance with RPD's turf management practices, DPAs with turf surfaces will be subject to closure during inclement weather and to perform routine maintenance. In these circumstances RPD will post signs directing users to the nearest DPA. If RPD and the DPA partners can't maintain a reasonable turf standplanting-RPD will evaluate with the community alternate materials for these specific sites. RPD favors the use of alternate materials such as sand, gravel, decomposed granite synthetic turf and other surface materials in smaller DPAs so as to allow for regular and appropriate maintenance. Combinations of materials may be used.

3.5 DPA AMENITIES

RPD will provide at a minimum the following amenities:

- Bag dispensers
- Signs
- Bench(s)
- Surface material
- Barriers
- Trash cans (RPD to service)
- *Lighting (where financially and physically possible & will not adversely affect surrounding areas)*

RPD will work closely with partners and the dog advisory committee to identify funding sources for additional amenities such as lighting, water fountain, or informational kiosk.

3.6 OTHER/ADDITIONAL OFF LEASH EXPERIENCES-DPA OPPORTUNITIES

RPD welcomes the opportunity to provide several different outdoor experiences with your pet. In an effort to provide a more widely accepted natural experience. If the general screening criteria in section 3.1 Location are met, RPD will initiate off leash use areas under the following circumstances, which the Advisory Board will investigate with support from the Advisory Committee Board:

Y-A Trail Experience *Regional Parks - Parks larger than 35 acres (see attached list for consideration)*

Boundaries:

- Soft barriers such as language posts, or field markers delineating approved areas
- When in close proximity to conflicting uses limited hard barriers fencing may be used (i.e. stream or sensitive habitat areas)

Size:

- Overall park size and topography will drive size constraints.

Surface Materials:

- Surface materials will be governed by existing conditions, i.e. turf in meadows and dirt trails

Other Criteria:

- All park users must be able to access the facility without encountering off leash dogs
- Signage that designates “Dogs allowed off leash on this trail (or meadow)”, and “Dogs ~~not allowed off~~ must be on leash”
- Dogs must not be able to directly access prohibited areas such as Significant Natural Resource Areas (see attached list)
- Off leash use does not preclude other uses ~~at the public's discretion~~ in these areas. The public can use at their discretion

B Large Parks & Squares — Parks 10-35 acres

Boundaries:

- Unfenced DPAs are possible as long as paths, boundaries, signs, topographic features, landscaping and/or other use separation features can reasonably define areas.
- Partial ~~fencing~~ physical barriers may be required to delineate various uses. This will be decided on a case by case basis.

Size:

- These areas will be a minimum of 30,000 square feet (equal to approximately 4.4 tennis courts)

Surfaces:

- The majority of these DPAs will be have turf surfaces. RPD will consider use of mixed surface materials as required to meet optimum maintenance levels (i.e. sand, turf, DG & synthetic turf)

Other Criteria

- DPA may not be adjacent to playground ~~or path of travel to the playground~~ without limited hard barriers.
- DPA may not be directly adjacent to SNRA without limited hard barriers
- It is strongly recommended that DPA include direct access to at least one edge of the park to help facilitate access. A major access path/trail may qualify, but pets must be leashed.
- Off leash use does not preclude other uses ~~at the public's discretion~~ in these areas. The public can use at their discretion.

C Smaller Parks & Playgrounds — Parks 0-10 acres

Boundaries:

- DPA's ~~will be~~ need have physical enclosures. Landscaping and other measures will be used to the extent possible to screen the effects of ~~fencing~~ enclosures

Size:

While RPD has jurisdiction over DPAs on RPD property and will contribute to both the capital start-up and operating expenses, the success of any DPA is based on the ability of its users to help establish, fund, operate, maintain and monitor each DPA site. In our research of DPAs around the country, most off-leash areas require direct support by site users, local residents, and/or organized groups of volunteers. The RPD encourages and welcomes partnerships in many

4.0 MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

DPPs require an active volunteer partner program to assist with monitoring and maintenance. Partners must demonstrate their commitment, organizational skills and willingness to support and promote the DPA standards. An identifiable responsible partner is required for new and existing DPAs. A current "Friends of" group is sufficient. An acceptable partner would be a smaller subset or committee of a larger park advocacy group. Refer to Section 4.32 for volunteer partner responsibilities.

3.7 PARTNERSHIPS

- The advisory committee will identify and endorse an accepted objective training program.

RPPD looks forward to the possibility of a "Gold Bone" program. Under this program dogs would be awarded a "gold bone" medal, or collar code collar to identify them as exceptionally well behaved and obedient. Upon completion of rigorous obedience certification program dogs be allowed in additional park areas to be determined by RPPD. Authority Committee approved by RPPD Committee without a leash.

Y-Gold Bone Program

- DPA will include double gates in at least two locations for safety precautions

Other Criteria

surfaces will be explored.

- These areas will be a minimum of 10,000 square feet (equivalent to 1.4 tennis courts).
- Surfaces:
 - Alternative surfaces (other than turf) or combinations of turf and more sustainable surfaces:

forms. RPD is moving toward MOU's for all park partners. ~~The RPD expects the DPA to simply be one of the many partnerships available in a park, perhaps under an umbrella group.~~

4.1 DPA RULES

Advisory Committee and RPD will develop adequate standard signage. It will follow the general guidelines listed below.

Your neighbors and the Recreation and Park Department appreciate responsible dog ownership.

- All dogs must be licensed and vaccinated before entering the DPA
- No dog less than 4 months old shall be permitted in the DPA
- Female dogs in heat are not allowed
- ~~No food allowed within the boundaries of the DPA~~
- No more than (3) dogs per owner are allowed in the DPA at any one time
- Professional dog trainers may not use a DPA for the conduct of their business, unless sponsored by RPD or by obtaining a permit from RPD
- Animals must be leashed when entering and exiting the DPA
- Owners shall be in possession of a leash for each dog at all times ~~with maximum 8 foot leash per San Francisco Leash Law~~
- Dogs must be under control of their owners at all times *(i.e. dog must immediately respond to commands)*
- Control excessive barking and noise
- Pick up and dispose of dog waste in a proper manner
- Aggressive dogs must be leashed immediately *(snarling, unwanted jumping)*
- Owners are to fill holes dug by their dogs prior to leaving the DPA
- ~~Dog grooming is not be allowed in any DPA~~

4.2 RPD/PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES

Partners and RPD shall share the responsibility for maintaining and monitoring DPAs. The following are general guidelines for each *group*.

RPD

- Maintain and repair surface (subject to ~~budgetary constraints~~ *available resources*)
- Maintain surrounding landscape
- Repair or replace ~~fencing~~ *barriers boundaries* and other basic amenities
- Maintain informational signs
- Empty waste receptacles
- Liaison with Animal Care & Control
- ~~Enforce~~ *Post* hours of operation for DPA
- Regulate hours to best serve maintenance needs
- Provide cost estimates for new or renovated DPAs
- ~~Provide~~ *Process* necessary regulatory permits such as CEQA.

- Provide and manage necessary regulatory permits for Professional Dog-Walkers
- Monitor DPA to determine general compliance and effectiveness of barriers
- Report monitoring findings to the Advisory Committee and community
- Work with partners and Advisory Committee to remedy any flaws in DPA design, location, or infrastructure

Partners

- Stewardship of DPA to uphold policy standards
- Distribute DPA rules and other educational materials to park users
- Serve as good role models
- Ensure DPA is kept free of animal feces
- Alert RPD/Advisory Committee to maintenance needs
- Help establish priorities for repair and renovation
- Schedule ~~routine~~ cleanup/workdays as necessary
- Fundraising activities to support additional amenities based on ~~users~~' DPA needs

Partners will enter into a MOU/permit agreement with RPD under the auspices of the Advisory Committee. ~~(See appendix)~~ Failure to meet standards and responsibilities set forth in the MOU agreement will subject DPA to review by RPD. *RPD retains the right to discontinue activities with any given partnership group.*

4.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RPD will form an official Dog Advisory Committee with balanced representation from the DPA community, children's groups, *environmental groups*, other park users, and invested government agencies. The Dog Advisory Committee will be moderated by RPD and the RPD General Manager will appoint members. The RPD General Manager will also appoint the chairperson for the Advisory Committee. The committee will consist of ~~7~~ ~~9~~ members ~~four (4)~~ six (6) selected from citywide organizations promoting park advocacy and three (3) representing citywide government institutions. A partial list includes, but not limited to:

SFSPCA	Neighborhood Parks Council	PAWS
SFDOG	SF Animal Care & Control	
Fund for Animals	Coleman Advocates	SF Police Department
Friends of ACC	Native Plant Society	Audubon Society
Sierra Club	Environmental Quality for Urban Parks	
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC)		
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services		
Department of the Environment		

Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee shall include, but are not limited to making recommendations on the following items:

- Establish term limits and bylaws

- Identify partnership opportunities
- Organize educational events (i.e. obedience classes, canine good citizen tests)
- Assist in developing and distributing education information
- Organize collaborative events throughout the City (i.e. vaccination and licensing days)
- Assist in the mediation of neighborhood park issues related to DPAs
- Recommend community guidelines
- Promote community relations
- Solicit and identify funding for amenities and improvements not provided by RPD
- Assist in review and evaluation of DPAs & Partnerships
- *Establish a formal complaint evaluation system and DPA evaluation instrument.*
- Act as liaison between users, local residents, and relevant citizen associations
- Meet bi-monthly unless deemed otherwise
- Meetings shall adhere to all City and State public meeting regulations
- Identify 3 (three) ~~alternate~~ DPA ~~rail meadow~~ experiences (in regional parks) in the first year of forming
- ~~Identify rules and outline prospective “Gold Bone” program~~
- Draft language for DPA signs
- Report to the RPD Commission 2-3 times per year with updates/issues

4.4 HOURS OF OPERATION

DPAs shall be open 7 days per week, within the posted and/or legal hours for any RPD park. Hours of lighted facilities shall be worked out with effected residents/neighborhood and civic associations. RPD reserves the right to restrict any DPA operating hours as needed in accordance with neighborhood input as well as maintenance requirements.

4.5 DPA EVALUATION

DPA evaluations shall be carried out one (1) year after a DPA is first sited, established, and/or significant renovation has been completed. After that, DPAs should be evaluated every three (3) years. An evaluation should be held in the interim if RPD determines that conditions warrant it. Existing DPAs shall be evaluated within one (1) year of this policy's inception.

DPA evaluations will be conducted by a committee comprised of representatives from RPD, the Advisory Committee, the neighborhood, Animal Care & Control and relevant local citizen associations. The Advisory Committee and RPD will develop the evaluation instrument. The evaluations should include utilization, ~~compliance, effectiveness of barriers,~~ community and fiscal impacts. The evaluation should also include a satisfaction survey of users and neighbors and consider the number, severity, and resolution of complaints and issues raised during the evaluation period.

5.0 SIGNS/RULES OF DPA

The intent of providing signs is to identify, educate and provide a clear and consistent understanding of the expectations of dog owners *and non-dog owners* within DPA's and other parks throughout the city.

The RPD shall provide and install signs at all DPA's that outline the rules and regulations for those spaces. When appropriate, directional signs to the park DPA will also be installed ~~in all parks that contain DPA's~~ In addition, RPD will install informational signs, which will accompany bag dispensers at on-leash sites. ~~that are used by the dog walking community.~~

The signs will outline several current San Francisco laws and ordinances ~~also contain~~ in addition ~~to~~ information that has proven effective in managing off-leash facilities in other cities.

5.1 SIGN FOR ON-LEASH PARK SPACES - AS REQUIRED

(These signs will accompany bag dispenser)

Your neighbors and the Recreation and Park Department appreciate responsible dog ownership
Please:

- Pick up and remove dog waste
- Leash your dog(s) ~~with maximum 8 foot leash~~
- Don't leave your dog unattended
- Control excessive barking and noise
- Prevent digging and destructive behavior
- Keep your dog's vaccinations and license current

Thank you,

For information regarding dogs in parks, please contact the
RPD @ (415) 831-2700 or Animal Care & Control @ (415) 554-6364
Health Code 40 A&B; 41.12 A-D, 41.15
Park Code 3.02

5.2 SIGN FOR OFF-LEASH PARK SPACES (DPA'S)

Language for DPA *signs* will be developed with advisory committee. Language will reflect simplified rules and regulations. *See section 4.1 for general guidelines.*

5.3 ENFORCEMENT

Although previous enforcement has been inconsistent, RPD intends to pursue enforcement of all related state and municipal laws. Enforcement will necessitate a multi-agency effort to include SFPD, ACC, and RPD. RPD strongly believes the greatest voice for following established rules and policies will be from DPA partners and users.

Upon adoption of this policy, a period of ninety (90) days for extensive public education and notice will precede strict *and consistent* enforcement. *During this ninety (90) day period, it is expected that the RPD will install informational signs, appoint Advisory Committee, as well as provide educational materials to be distributed that generally support a “soft” or warning enforcement period. The RPD is eager to designate additional DPA’s prior to hard enforcement.*

6.0 MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 HOW TO PROPOSE A NEW DPA ~~OR ALTERNATE USE AREA~~

In general, users and neighbors, and/or a park partner can submit a written request regarding the establishment of new DPAs, or adding/repairing amenities at existing DPAs to RPD (submit to General Manager). The RPD will evaluate the request and make a recommendation to the Advisory Committee within 60 days of receiving the request. The Advisory Committee will begin public process/negotiations. Siting a DPA shall follow the accepted community-wide planning process, which includes public notification and opportunities for input from users and neighbors, RPD and relevant civic association (s).

6.2 HOW TO MODIFY OR ELIMINATE A DPA

If, after evaluation by the Advisory Committee, relevant park groups and RPD, a DPA is determined to be flawed in nature, potential solutions will be developed and implemented. i.e. if an unfenced DPA fails to confine uses, hard barriers may be implemented. If adequate alternatives cannot be identified, or are deemed ineffective, RPD reserves the right to discontinue the DPA in question.

6.3 FUNDING

Prior to establishing a DPA adequate funding must be identified by RPD, Advisory Committee and/or community partners. RPD has the primary responsibility for providing the resources necessary for the establishment, maintenance and management of basic DPAs.

RPD will work with DPA Partners, The Dog Advisory Committee and other government agencies to identify support through additional city monies, grants, private and corporate funding, and agency partnerships.

6.4 COMPLAINTS

Complaints and concerns arising inside the boundaries of the DPA should be brought to the attention of the RPD. All complaints will be reported to the Advisory Committee in a staff report. If after 60 days the complaint has not been resolved satisfactorily, the Advisory Committee and the complainant will meet with the appropriate RPD personnel to mediate the situation to resolution with final resolution the responsibility of RPD.

6.5 PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS

RPD requires an RPD Permit and Animal Care & Control agreement form. ~~Please see attached "Dog Walker Agreement Form" provided by San Francisco Animal Care & Control Department~~ Dog Walkers are required to have a maximum 8-foot leash in their possession for each dog. Animal Care and Control recommends that professional dog walkers not have more than six (6) dogs in their control at any one time. RPD requires no more than six (6) dogs per person be off leash at any one time in a DPA. *Professional Dog Walkers will use DPA's between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

RPD will institute a sliding scale fee schedule for Professional Dog Walkers so as not to unduly impact their livelihood.

6.6 PUBLIC INFORMATION

RPD will provide outreach information by producing signage and brochures that shall be distributed through a number of means including veterinary offices, SFSPCA, pet stores and RPD facilities, as well as the RPD WEB page which ~~will~~ links to other support organizations.

All RPD staffed facilities will provide information on the closest available official DPA ~~on or off leash~~.

7.0 Appendix

- 7.1 Park code
- 7.2 Health Code
- 7.3 Park Acreage (10 acres & up)
- 7.4 Dog Policy Stakeholders
- 7.5 ~~Professional Dog Walker Agreement Current DPA Sites~~
- 7.6 ~~RPD Permitted Athletic Field Reservation List~~
- 7.7 ~~Significant Natural Resources list & criteria~~
- 7.8 ~~Task Force Current & Recommended Site List~~

8.0 Dog Policy References & Bibliography (Available on request)

Appendix 7.1 Park Code

Sec. 3.01 Obey posted rules & regulations

Sec. 3.02 Signs to be obeyed

Sec. 4.08 Interference with Recreation & Park Employees.
No person, with malice may interfere or hinder an employee performing park duties. (Construction repairs or care of)

Sec. 4.12 Persons may be excluded under certain circumstances.
Recreation & Park employees and Park Patrol are authorized to order any person to leave who disobeys any rule or regulation.

Sec. 4.13 Refusal to obey the lawful order of a police officer, park patrol or Recreation & Park employee is prohibited.

Sec. 4.14 Fighting, disturbing peace offensive words. Prohibited in a public place when likely to provoke an immediate violent reaction.

Sec. 5.01 Dogs, cats, horses only allowed.

Sec. 5.02 Animals prohibited from certain areas (except for guide dogs, Police Mounted Detail)
Any building, the Zoo, Arboretum, Japanese Tea Garden, Conservatory Valley, playgrounds, sandboxes or other areas reserved for children, or to enter or drink the water of any drinking fountain, lake or pond, except at designated places.

Sec. 5.05 Vicious animals prohibited.

Sec. 5.08 Disturbing animals, birds, fish prohibited.

Appendix 7.2 Health Code

Sec. 40 Dog to be controlled so as not to commit nuisances
All dog feces must be removed and people walking dogs must carry materials to remove feces.

Sec. 41.12 Duties of owners.
All dogs must be leashed or tethered except in designated exercise areas under the jurisdiction of Recreation & Park. Person with dog(s) must be physically present at all times when dog is in exercise areas. Describes circumstances under which dog barking becomes an offense.

Sec. 41.15 Dog License Requirement.
Every person owning, keeping or having control of any dog over age of 4 months must obtain a current license for each dog.

Sec. 41.18 Vaccination required for license.
Dogs over age of four months required to have current rabies vaccination.

Sec. 41.21 Removal of dog tag prohibited.

Sec. 41.5.1 Biting dogs. Definition, declaring dangerous dogs, fines and penalties.

Sec. 42.1 Fight Training prohibited.

Appendix 7.3 Recreation & Park Facilities (10 acres or more)

Facility	Location	Acreage
Alamo square	Hayes & Steiner	12.695
Alta Plaza Park	Jackson & Steiner	11.89
Balboa Park	Ocean & San Jose	27.537
Bayview Park & Extension	LeConte Ave	41.998
Bernal Heights	Bernal Hts. Blvd	24.213
Buena Vista Park	Buena Vista & Haight	36
Corona Heights	16th & Roosevelt	16.557
Crocker Amazon	Geneva & Moscow	54.95
Douglass	26th & Douglass	10.48
Glen Park/Canyon	Cheney & Elk	101.113
Golden Gate Park		1017
Lafayette Square	Washington & Laguna	11.487
Lake Merced	368 acres lake, 170 acres golf	700
Lincoln Park Golf Course	34th Ave & Clement	204.068
Louis Sutter	University & Wayland	17
Marina Green	Marina Blvd	74
McLaren Park	Visitacion Valley	297.5
Midtown Terrace	Clarendon & Olympic	13.37
Mission Dolores	18th & Dolores	13.37
Moscone	Chestnut & Buchanan	12.05
Mountain Lake	12th Ave & Lake	15
Mt. Davidson	Myra Way	39.42
Ocean View	Capitol & Montana	10.25
Palace of Fine Arts	Lyon Street	15.72
Park Presidio	Presidio Blvd	23
St. Mary's	Justin & Murray	13.53
Stern Grove	19th Ave & Sloat	33.149
Three Com	Jamestown Ave	77.36
Twin Peaks Blvd	Twin Peaks	13.58
West Sunset	39th Ave & Ortega	16.81
Z00	Zoo Drive	77.74

Appendix 7.4 Dog Policy Stakeholders

EQUP Environmental Quality for Urban Parks

SPCA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

NPC Neighborhood Parks Council

FRIENDS Friends of Recreation & Parks

GGAS Golden Gate Audubon Society

COLEMAN Coleman Advocates for Youth

SFACC San Francisco Animal Care & Control

SFDOG San Francisco Dog Owners Group

GREEN FRIENDS

PAWS Parks are Worth Saving

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NPS Native Plant Society

PRO DOG

Appendix 7.5

Current

Dog Park Sites	Zip Code	Acreage	tennis	cts	ball fields	soccer field	clubhouse	play area	Restroom*
Alta Plaza	15	11.9		3					x
Bernal Hts	10	24.2							x
Buena Vista	17	36		2					x
Corona Hts	14	16.7							x
Dolores	10	13.4		6		x	x	x	x
Douglas	14	10.5			1		x	x	x
GG Park Dog Training									
GG Park NE									
GG Park SE									
GG Park So Central									
Lafayette	15	11.4		2	basketball				x
Lake Merced	32	162							
McLaren Park (2 sites)	34	317		6					x
McKinley	7	2.48							x
Mountain Lake	18	15		4			x	x	
Potrero Hill	27	9.5		2	1		x	x	
St. Mary's	12	13.5		3	1		x	x	
Stern Grove	32	33		2			x	x	
Eureka Valley (trial)	14	1.9		1	1		x	x	
Upper Noe (trial)	31	2.5		1	1	1	x	x	

*Restrooms open when RPD staff present

Appendix 7.6 Recreation & Park Permitted Athletic Fields

		Diamonds	Ground-Sport Fields
Alice Chalmers	670 Brunswick St.	1	
Aptos	Aptos St. & Ocean Ave.	1	
Balboa	San Jose & Ocean Aves.	2	
Bayview	Third & Armstrong Sts.	1	
Big Rec	Near 7th. Ave. & Lincoln Way	2	
Christopher	5210 Diamond Heights Blvd.	1	
Crocker Amazon	Geneva & Moscow	5	5
Douglass	26th. & Douglass Sts.	1	
Eureka Valley	100 Collingwood St.	1	
Excelsior	Russia & Madrid Sts.	1	
Gilman	Gilman Ave. & Griffith St.	1	
Glen Park	Bosworth St. & O'shaughnessy Blvd.	2	
Holly Park	Holly Circle & Highland Ave.	1	
Jackson	Mariposa & Arkansas Sts.	2	
Julius Kahn	West Pacific Ave. & Spruce St.	1	
Junipero Serra	300 Stonecrest Drive	1	
Kimbell	Geary Blvd. & Steiner St.	2	
Lang	Turk & Octavia Sts.	2	
Larsen	19th Ave. & Ulloa St.	1	
Laurel Hill	Euclid & Collin Sts.	1	
Little Rec	Kezar Dr. & Waller St.	1	
Louis Sutter #1	University & Wayland Sts.	2	
McCoppin Square	22nd. & Santiago St.	1	
Miraloma	Omar & Sequoia Way	1	
Moscone	Chestnut & Laguna Sts.	4	
Ocean View	Capitol Ave. & Lobos St.	5	
Parkside	28th Ave. & Vicente St.	1	
Portola	Somerset & Felton St.	2	
Rolph	Potrero Ave. & Army St.	2	
Rossi	Arguello Btw. Edward & Anza Sts.	2	
Silver Terrace	Silver Ave. & Bayshore Blvd.	2	
South Sunset	40th Ave. & Vicente St.	2	
Sunset	28th Ave. & Moraga St.	1	
Upper Noe	Day & Sanchez Sts.	1	
Visitacion Valley	Cora St. & Leland Ave.	1	
West Sunset 1	39th Ave. & Ortega St.	3	4

Youngblood	Coleman Galvez & Mendell Sts.	1	1
Franklin Square	16th & Bryant Sts.		
Grattan	Stanyan & Alma Sts.		
Louis Sutter	University & Wayland Sts.		
Polo Fields	36th Ave. Fulton Ave. & Lincoln Way (Ggp)		7

* Outfield Of Athletic Fields Also Permitted For Football And Soccer

Appendix 7.7 San Francisco Recreation & Park Department Significant Natural Resource Areas

Bayview Hill
Bernal Hill
Billy Goat Hill
Brooks Park
Buena Vista Park (Oak Woodlands)
Corona Heights
Dorothy Erskine Park
Duncan Castro Open Space
Edgehill Mountain
Fairmont Park
Glen Canyon/O 'shaughnessy Hollow
Golden Gate Heights (West Side)
Golden Gate Park Oak Woodlands
Grandview Park
Hawk Hill
India Basin
Interior Greenbelt
Kite Hill
Laguna Honda (PUC property)
Lake Merced
Lakeview/Ashton Mini Park
McLaren Park
Mount Davidson
Mountain Lake Park
Palou Phelps Open Space
Parcel Four/Sutro Baths
Pine Lake
Rock Outcrop
Rolph Nicol Park
Sharp Park — Pacifica
Twin Peaks

Appendix 8.0 References

A Department Policies & References

1. Dog Policy
Report of the Advisory Dogs Off-Leash Task Force May 1999
2. Dog Running Areas in City Parks, SFRP brochure
Dog Walking Parks, *Friends of Recreation & Parks*
Creating Community Support for off leash dogs in City Parks, *CPRS Session Outline 2000 Significant Natural Resource Areas of San Francisco*
3. *Strategic Plan Public Comments*
Best Friends and "Park Friends", Neighborhood Parks Council, June 5, 1999
How do off-leash dogs in SF Parks impact children & families, *Coleman Report*
4. *Maps: Current and Proposed Task Force Off Leash Areas; Demographics of Concentration of Dogs Dog bite Statistics*
5. *SFRP Facilities List; PUC Property List*
6. *Inside City Parks, Peter Harnik, Urban Land Institute Report*
Minneapolis Site Criteria Rating; NRPA Planning Parks for Pets
Dog Access Site Evaluation Criteria, Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District

B Codes, Laws & Liability

7. Municipal Park Code & Health Code
8. *What Every Dog Owner Should Know, SPCA, City Laws re: dogs*
1. Animal Care & Control ; Dog Walker Agreement; ACC Codes for dog walkers
Amos Brown Amendment re: transferring Dog Licensing Fees from Tax Collector to ACC
Pro Dog, Professional Dog Walkers Association
2. *Pet Owners & the Law, Maryville; Dog Bite Law, Legal Rights of a Dog Bite Victim;*
Liability of Dog Ownership: Insurance Options; *How to Avoid Dog Bites, dogs & dog repellent, US Postal Service*

C Dog Advocates & Community Groups

11. *Mayor Proposes Doggie Cops*
12. Report Card on the City's System of Official Off-Leash Dog Runs, SF Dog
13. San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Park Improvement Proposal, *SF Dog & San Francisco SPCA, August 25, 1999 Managing Off-Leash Recreation in Urban Parks, SF Dogs, May 1999*
14. *SPCA*
15. *CEQA*
Laborers' International Union of North America Local Union #261 Letter
Friends of Dolores Park, *Donald Bird Informational Letter, July 2000*
Dolores Park Dogs *Palo Alto People for Unleashed Pet Space (PUPS)*
The Ruff Part of Town, *Pawprint Peninsula Humane Society Dog Parks:*
Penninsula Access for Dogs (PADS) *History of the Sausalito Dog Park*
Dog Power, Bark Magazinea *Professional Dog Walkers* *All Gods Creatures Pet Sitting*

D National Park Service & Regional Park District

16. *Interagency Resource Management Roundtable*
17. *National Park Service Pet Regulations Proposed Habitat Protection Closure* *Public Input Process on Dog Walking*
18. *City Govt re: Closures*
19. Dogs in Regional Parks, *East Bay Regional Park District; Be All You Canine Be! East Bay Companion Dog Patrol Point Isabel, Richmond*
20. *East Bay Regional Park District Draft Guidelines for Dog Permit Pilot Program*

E Local and California Dog Park Information

21. *Draft Report of Areas Open to Off Leash dogs by District*

<i>Canine Commons, Larkspur</i>	<i>Remington Park, Sausalito</i>	<i>Bay Front, Mill Valley</i>
<i>Field of Dogs, San Rafael</i>	<i>O'Hair Park, Novato</i>	<i>McInnis Park, San Rafael</i>
<i>PRIDE, San Anselmo</i>	<i>Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve</i>	<i>Cipriani Park, Belmont</i>
<i>Bark Park, Foster City</i>	<i>Edgewater Park, Foster City</i>	<i>Boothbay Park, Foster City</i>
<i>Catamaran Park, Foster City</i>	<i>C Cloud Park, Foster City</i>	<i>San Bruno Dog Exercise Area</i>
<i>Heather Park, San Carlos</i>	<i>Shore Dogs Park, Redwood City</i>	<i>Mountain View Dog Park</i>
<i>Cuesta Park, Mountain View</i>	<i>Rengstorff Park, Mountain View</i>	<i>Whisman Park, Mountain View</i>
<i>Hellyer Park Enclosure, San Jose</i>	<i>Las Palmas Dog Park, Sunnyvale</i>	<i>Mitchell Park, Palo Alto</i>
<i>Greer Park Dog Run, Palo Alto</i>	<i>Hoover Park, Palo Alto</i>	<i>Santa Clara Dog Park, Santa Clara</i>
<i>Mitchell's Cove Beach, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>It's Beach, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Lighthouse Field, Santa Cruz</i>
<i>Robert Crown State Beach, Alameda</i>	<i>Pt Isabel Park, Richmond</i>	<i>Outdoors with dog in San Mateo Co.</i>

*Hardy Dog Park, Oakland Cal trans**Poway Dog Park, Ca**Samuel Ayer, Red Bluff***22. Dog Park Rules***Marin County**Santa Monica**Dogs Welcome, Sunnyvale**Dogpark Etiquette for People, Dogpark.com**Vision & How to start a dog park, Freeplay,**How to Establish a Successful dog run in your Community, American Dog Trainers Network**Santa Cruz SPCA**Dog & Pet Information, PAWs, San Mateo Rules**Dog Owner's Responsibility Code, www.citydog.org**A Dog Park Description, Dogplay.com**Dog Parks, Dog Runs & Off Leash Play, Dog Play***F Dog Park Model Policies***Ann Arbor Dog Park Project**Standards for Arlington County Dog Areas**Santa Barbara, Take them to the dog park**New York Parks & Recreation**Policies win endorsement from American Kennel Club, City of New York**New York Council of Dog Owner Groups (NYCDOG)**How to Establish a Successful Dog run in your Community, (NYCDOG)**Minneapolis, Establishing an Off Leash Dog Recreation Area Program**Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Off Leash Dog Areas**Boulder, Colorado**Chicago ACC, A Practical Guide to Proper Etiquette for City Dogs and their owner!**Maryland, Greenbelt Dog Park Association, Inside Scoop**Madison Parks, Wisconsin Dog Exercise Areas**Reston Dog Park Coalition, Frequently Asked Questions**Freeplay. Case for Space University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development**Seattle UNCOLA (United Neighbors Concerning Off Leash Areas**University of Queensland, Australia, Public Open Space and Dogs, A design and management guide for open space professionals and local government.**National Companion Animal Coalition, An enlightened Approach to Companion Animal Control for Canadian Municipalities**Toronto, Process for leash free area Vancouver, Canada**How to Establish a Successful Dog Run, American Dog Trainers Network**Other States Dog Park Listings***G Health***Endangered Feces, Scoop on Poop, ur-net.com/aadogs, .**About Composting, ur-net.com/aadogs**Dog Pooh and the Environment, Dog Do! Infozone***H Products***Dog Diaper Dogi- Pot/Pet Station Bag Dispensers Dog Toilets***I Dog Training***Bark Park**Proposal for Dog Agility Course, Laura Laugero**Good Citizen, AKC**Canine Good Citizen, AKC**Citizen Canine, Peter Byrne, SF Weekly**Is Your Dog Off-Leashed Certified?, www.ci.rockville, md**Using the leash for control and leadership, Pam Young, LVT, Detroit**When will I be able to let my dog off-leash?, Bohnenkamp, Perfect Paws, Inc.**Leash or No Leash, trelliah.tripod.com**Need a Few Good Reasons to Leash Your Dog, American Dog Owners Association,***J Web sites /Links***assorted dog park web sites listings
web links***K Newspaper Articles**

Ooops!

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Corrections to Frequently Questions References

2. Size of Dpas/No Dog Pens	reference section 3.2 Size reference section 3.6 DPA Opportunities
3. Surface Materials	reference 3.4 Surfacing
4. Zoned/or Mixed/Shared Use	Reference 3.6 DPA Opportunities
6. asked to carry an undo...	asked to carry an undue.....

San Francisco Recreation & Park Department Frequently Asked Questions
Draft Dog Policy 2/27/2002

Primary Issues/Concerns	Solutions/Answers
1) No Dog Pens/No Barriers	Not all DPAs will be fenced. Fencing will be used in conjunction with other barriers to separate DPAs from some adjacent uses. Park size & other screening criteria will be used to determine whether DPAs need to be fenced. Other alternatives such as shrubbery, topography, pathways or sitting wall are possible types of barriers or boundaries in some parks.
2) Size of DPAs /No Dog Pens	At the request of community stakeholders RPD has increased the minimum size DPA from 8,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet (1.5 x the size of a tennis court). RPD has also included guidelines for parks 0-10 acres, 10-35 acres (minimum square footage of 30,000,) and 35+ acres with no minimum size. See section 3.7 Off Leash Experiences.
3) Surface Materials	The policy does not exclude grass as a possible surface material, but points out the difficulty of year round use and maintenance. RPD will explore options for some hardy grass species, but must be cautious in their use due to their invasive nature. RPD would encourage the use of several different surface materials in a given area such as sand and turf, or sand, turf, and pea gravel, or synthetic turf. See section 3.5 DPA Surfacing
4) Zoned or Mixed/Shared Use	RPD has created a park category that will accommodate mixed use in parks of 10-35 acres. RPD is also committed to a trail or meadow experience in parks over 35 acres, which is very innovative and would be the first of its kind in the United States. See section 3.7 Off Leash experiences
5) Dog owners are being punished/Separation of dogs and people	RPD recognizes off leash dog activities as a legitimate form of recreation. Dog owners are in fact being offered an opportunity to increase off leash recreational areas. People are not prevented from entering DPAs, but the City has a responsibility to provide space for people who do not want to encounter off leash dogs.
6) Dog owners are being asked to carry an undo burden of costs associated with their recreational activity of choice.	Recreational use fees are common in San Francisco parks. There is a fee associated with swimming, and athletic fields, latchkey, preschool, daycamps & art classes. However, it is not a requirement for a dog owner to pay to use the DPA. It is simply suggested that fundraising be used to provide amenities that the RPD may not be able to afford. See section 6.3 Funding.
7) Enforcement is not possible.	The RPD will work with advisory groups, SFPD Park Patrol Officers and Animal Care & Control to ensure that current City ordinances are enforced. SFPD has expressed their commitment to enforcing current leash laws. Across the board the public favored enforcement of current laws, especially the clean up laws.

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